

HOUSE BILL 1593
By West

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36; Title 37;
Title 39 and Title 71, relative to child welfare.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-101(a)(2)(B)(i), is amended by deleting the language "contested".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-106(a), is amended by adding the language "and safety" after the language "best interest" and before the language "of the child".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-106(a)(8), is amended by deleting the language "clear" after the language "determine, by a" and before the language "preponderance of the", and is further amended by adding the following language after the language "such abuse has occurred." and before the language "The court shall":

Where there are allegations that one (1) parent has committed child abuse or child sexual abuse, against the minor child who is the subject of the court's custody determination, the court shall strongly consider all evidence relevant to the physical and emotional safety of the child, including, but not limited to testimony from the child's

teachers, psychologist, psychiatrist, or any other person having direct knowledge or evidence of the alleged abuse.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-406(a)(2), is amended by adding the following language at the end of that subdivision:

Any evidence that a parent has engaged in physical or sexual abuse or a pattern of emotional abuse of the child shall be thoroughly examined by the court. The court shall request additional evidence if necessary to determine whether a pattern of abuse exists.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.